First Nations Development Fund

Building Strong Communities

Grant Program Annual Results 2012/2013

Alberta Government

Message from the Minister

On behalf of the Government of Alberta and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations, I am pleased to present the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) 2012-2013 Annual Results.

Now in its eighth year, the FNDF continues to be an important source of support for First Nations' economic, social and community development projects, and it is another example of how the Alberta government is investing in families and communities.

An important feature of the FNDF is that First Nations set their own priorities and oversee the planning and implementation of the funded projects. This ensures that projects reflect the specific needs and interests of each community.

In 2012/2013, the FNDF supported 290 community projects which are making a difference in the lives of First Nations people, and I invite you to read the success stories highlighted in this report.

Honourable Frank Oberle
Minister of Aboriginal Relations

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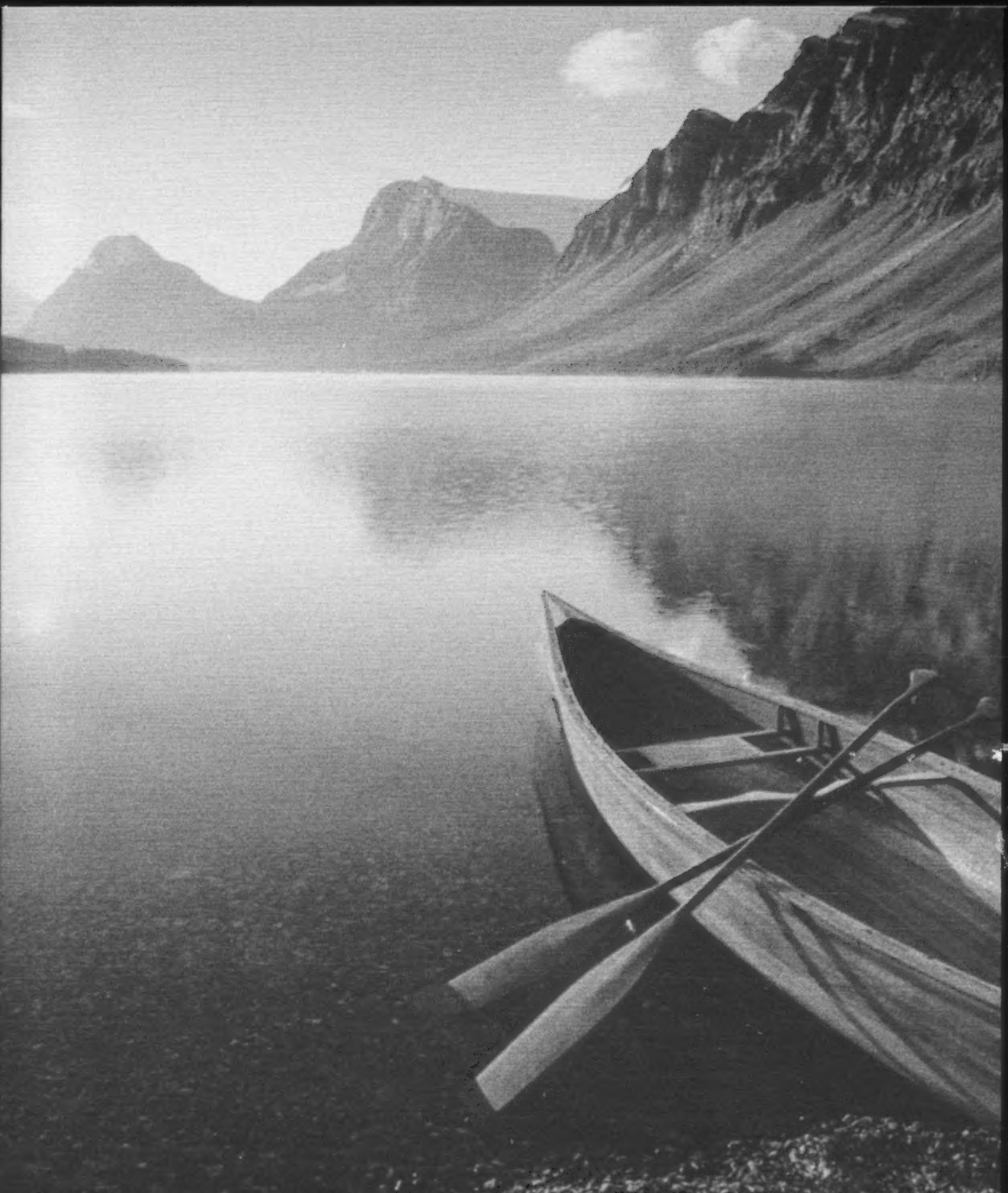
Introduction

The Government of Alberta and First Nations remain committed to sustaining a lasting relationship based on government-to-government collaboration. Both the First Nations Gaming Policy and the FNDF are evidence of this strong collaborative process, having been jointly negotiated and approved by First Nations and the Government of Alberta.

The First Nations Gaming Policy was approved by the Government of Alberta and First Nations in 2001. It is a policy set in place to both adhere to the needs of the Aboriginal community as well as Alberta's unique gaming model. As a result, there are five First Nation owned casinos in operation today, which employ hundreds of Albertan's and significantly contribute to the province's growing economy. These casinos are:

- River Cree Resort and Casino at Enoch Cree Nation
- Grey Eagle Casino at Tsuu T'ina Nation
- Eagle River Casino at Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
- Casino Dene at Cold Lake First Nations
- Stoney Nakoda Resort at Stoney Nakoda Nation

The FNDF is part of the First Nations Gaming Policy, and is an Alberta government lottery grant program available exclusively to First Nations in Alberta. FNDF is supported by 40 per cent of the revenues generated by the government-owned slot machines located in First Nations casinos in Alberta. FNDF provides First Nations with consistent funding to support their social, economic, and community development initiatives. There are currently 46 First Nations participating in the FNDF grant program.



Supporting a Diversity of Community Projects

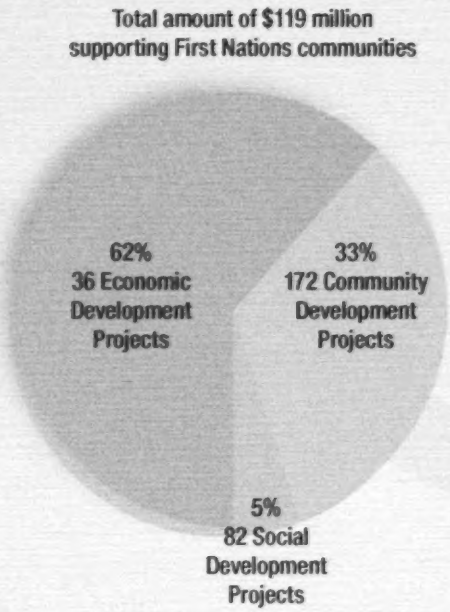
In 2012/2013, the RNDF paid nearly $119 million to First Nations to support 290 community-based and community-designed projects. This is a significant contribution toward helping build strong and vibrant First Nations communities. The projects include:

- $73,628,987 paid towards 36 economic development projects:
  - $40,426,152 towards 7 projects supporting business start-up and expansion, such as Tsuu T'ina Nation's Hotel and Convention/Entertainment Centre.
  - $33,202,834 towards 29 various other projects supporting economic development.
- $39,340,377 paid towards 172 community development projects:
  - $21,055,670 towards 83 projects supporting Band administration/operation costs, such as Pikani Nation's Communications Strategy Development.
  - $6,951,821 paid towards 22 housing development projects, such as Cold Lake First Nations' Seven Unit Housing Development Project.
  - $11,332,885 towards 67 various other projects supporting community development.

- $6,029,508 paid towards 82 social development projects
  - $1,785,463 towards 26 projects supporting recreational activities, such as Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation's Skateboard Park
  - $1,526,536 towards 12 projects supporting education, such as Ermineskin Tribe's Cree Language Department
  - $2,717,508 towards 44 various other projects supporting social development

Since it began, FNDF has paid out over $610 million in grants to First Nations in Alberta, and has approved over 1350 projects. For a complete listing of projects funded by the FNDF:

- Go to the Who Benefits database at http://albertalotteryfund.ca/abouttheaif/whobenefits.asp
- Under "Agency" select "First Nations Development Fund"



Beaver Lake Cree Nation: Convenience Store and Gas/Diesel Service Station

The Busy Beaver Community Store is located at the northwest entrance of the Beaver Lake Cree Nation reserve, approximately 16 km south of Lac La Biche. It was built in the heart of the community and offers convenience and accessibility that the Nation previously lacked. Prior to The Busy Beaver Store, most members had to travel to Lac La Biche for fuel and grocery items. The store has significantly cut the fuel costs for their public works as it services the community's school busses, heavy equipment, and employee vehicles.

The store also acts as an economically sustainable resource for the community, as it offers service to both community members and visitors who utilize the Beaver Lake Beach access for camping and boating during the summer. There is a community-owned ATM machine located in the store, which also contributes to the Nation's revenue. All revenue generated from the store stays in community to further support economic and community initiatives.

Beaver Lake Cree Nation's Chief and Council initiated this project, which has been led by council member Dennis Paradis, to respond to the needs and desires of the community. The store currently employs six members of the community and may potentially employ nine more members when it is expanded to include a post-office, laundromat, and restaurant. A total of $215,000 of FNDF funding has been used to support the start-up costs of the 2,400 sq. ft. store, which opened for business in July of 2012.

Cold Lake First Nations: 5 Stick-built homes

Cold Lake First Nations is part of Treaty 6 and located approximately 150 km north of Lloydminster. The First Nation is comprised of over 2400 members, with approximately half of its members living on-reserve. The community estimates that over 300 houses are required to fulfill the housing demand of on-reserve members, which has not been met as many homes contain more than one generation of family members. Providing members with sufficient housing is high on leadership's priority list in order to ensure the comfort and well-being of the entire community. Since 2011, the community has approved 27 homes—12 trailers, 15 houses—and intends on producing an average of 20 homes per year to alleviate the housing shortage.

In 2012/2013, $850,864 of FNDF funding went towards supporting five stick-built houses. Construction of the homes began in 2011, and the last home was completed in the summer of 2012. Each home is approximately 1,200 square feet, with 2 or 3 bedrooms. Stick built homes have the advantage of creating work opportunities for community members, as the entire home is constructed on-site. The majority of the project was contracted out to members of the First Nation to support the economic growth of band-owned and private businesses.

Accountability

Just like any other grant program, the FNDF includes accountability measures, which are included in the FNDF Grant Agreement:

- FNDF grants can only be used by First Nations for economic, social and community development projects.
- FNDF grants cannot be used for operating or financing costs of a casino or other gaming facility/equipment, or for per capita distributions, or for security against loans or debt.
- Every grant application must include a Band Council Resolution.
- The use of FNDF grants must be reported annually.
- The Government of Alberta or the Office of the Auditor General has the ability to conduct audits to ensure compliance with the FNDF Grant Agreement and First Nations Gaming Policy.
- The Government of Alberta has the ability to suspend the FNDF Grant Agreement and discontinue FNDF grants for non-compliance.
- While the Minister of Aboriginal Relations retains power for final decision-making, there is a process for dispute resolution.

To ensure accountability and transparency, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations audits FNDF grants to ensure funds are utilized only on the approved projects and are consistent with the FNDF Grant Agreement.

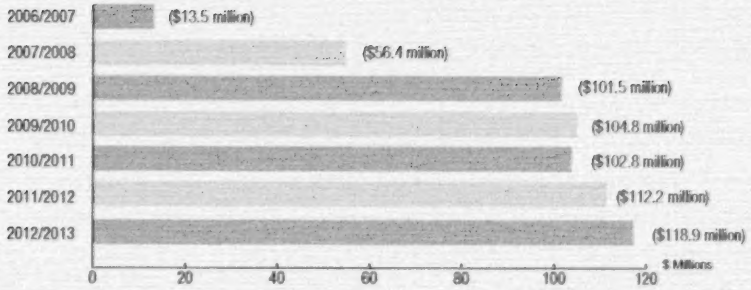
Compliance Audits

In 2012/2013, FNDF completed compliance audits on 15 First Nations, which included a total of 158 projects, for a total of $38,879,092. The audits reviewed the use of FNDF funds based on the terms of the FNDF Grant Agreement. Where issues arose, the ministry worked with the First Nation to resolve the concerns. Auditors are also available to assist and advise First Nations on how to meet financial compliance requirements. They also assist with the annual FNDF workshop and other capacity building initiatives within FNDF.

Low administration costs

Aboriginal Relations incurs costs for the administration of the FNDF grant program. In 2012/2013, administrative expenses were $1,206,455, representing approximately 1per cent of the total FNDF funds. This includes salaries, benefits, travel, and any special supplies for the FNDF Grant program staff members. The Government of Alberta absorbs other costs in the administration of the FNDF, such as daily office supplies, office space, utilities, computers and information technology services, human resource and finance/accounting services, senior management and ministerial oversight.

FNDF Fiscal Year Grant Funding



FNDF Grant Program Funding by Treaty Area 2012/2013

Of the five First Nation casinos, three are operated by First Nations in Treaty 6, and two are operated by First Nations in Treaty 7. As 75 per cent of the FNDF Grant Program funds are allocated back to the First Nations with casinos, more funding flows to Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 First Nations.

Treaty 6 – Signed in 1876 – covers central Alberta and Saskatchewan and includes 17 Alberta First Nations.

Treaty 7 – Signed in 1877 – covers southern Alberta and includes 7 Alberta First Nations.

Treaty 8 – Signed in 1899 – covers portions of northern Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories and includes 34 Alberta First Nations.

Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation Church

Marina Nokohoo, Nation member, notes: "When the [previous] church was filled to capacity, one could actually see the floor moving."

FNDF has approved a total of $1.5 million to support the construction of the new church.

Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation is located in the Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo region approximately 400 km northeast of Edmonton, and is home to 376 of the Nation's 819 registered members. In 2012/2013, FNDF provided $360,295 toward the construction of the community's new church.

The previous church was in a decrepit state with an unstable foundation and was unable to accommodate its congregation. The new building is 4000 square feet and will comfortably accommodate 200 people. A majority of the construction and management of the project was contracted to members of the community in order to support local businesses and the Nation's overall economic growth.

Not only does the new church alleviate safety concerns and support local businesses, it also offers a renewed sense of hope, faith, and spiritual growth within the community. As a compliment to Chief Vern Janvier's vision of nurturing community well-being, the church strengthens the spiritual and physical well-being of the community while instilling a sense of pride, ownership, and worthiness. The grand opening for the church was on December 6, 2013.

Sunchild First Nation School Multi-Purpose Recreational and Cultural Facility

Sunchild First Nation is located approximately 60 km northwest of Rocky Mountain House. The community is home to over 850 members, with youth comprising nearly 65 per cent of the population. The community as a whole recognized the lack of a centralized location for youth to partake in physical activity, and wanted a place where they could skate, play street hockey, broomball, curling, basketball, lacrosse, and soccer. Chief and Council responded to this need and utilized $590,000 of FNDF funding to build a new multi-functional recreational and cultural facility. Construction of the new facility began in May of 2012 and concluded six months later in November.

The facility is available to all youth at any time and is conveniently located behind the Sunchild First Nation School. This presented the school with a unique opportunity to integrate the facility into their physical education curriculum by adding an ice skating program during the winter. The facility is also accessible to all community members and provides them with a great location to participate in recreational activities with friends and family.

The community also used FNDF funds to commence and support their recreational program, which included construction of a school playground; they envision the playground and multipurpose facility will be the start of a centralized recreational ground that will feature baseball diamonds, an obstacle course, and other future developments.

Grants By First Nation

First Nation	Funding Paid * 2012/2013	Projects Funded
Alexander First Nation	681,651.27	7
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation	5,625,707.49	1
Athabasca Chipweyan First Nation	532,843.15	3
Beaver First Nation	522,943.95	8
Beaver Lake Cree Nation	534,080.70	3
Bigstone Cree Nation	1,453,995.59	8
Blood Tribe	2,152,245.24	22
Chipweyan Prairie Dene First Nation	498,503.05	2
Cold Lake First Nations	5,660,211.28	9
Dene Tha' First Nation	813,751.87	4
Driftpile First Nation	762,705.85	3
Duncan's First Nation	421,161.17	2
Enoch Cree Nation #440	44,392,837.38	2
Ermineskin Tribe	1,024,278.72	21
Fort McKay First Nation	491,852.46	2
Fort McMurray#468 First Nation	479,940.72	3
Frog Lake First Nation	823,807.29	1
Heart Lake First Nation	429,513.46	1
Horse Lake First Nation	533,771.35	6
Kapawe'no First Nation	433,999.69	7
Kehewin Cree Nation	680,413.63	1
Little Red River Cree Nation	1,118,173.30	9
Loon River First Nation	462,925.37	2

First Nation	Funding Paid * 2012/2013	Projects Funded
Louis Bull Tribe	696,810.21	13
Mikisew Cree First Nation	800,758.69	4
Montana Cree Nation	526,966.13	8
O'Chiese First Nation	562,543.80	10
Paul First Nation	682,734.14	6
Piikani Nation	935,179.82	9
Saddle Lake First Nation	1,445,796.56	5
Samson Cree Nation	1,551,137.31	23
Sawridge First Nation	447,302.29	2
Siksika Nation	1,429,399.98	2
Smith's Landing First Nation	431,524.51	5
Stoney Nakoda Nation	3,465,211.62	1
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation	826,903.63	5
Sucker Creek First Nation	775,855.23	8
Sunchild First Nation	577,238.64	3
Swan River First Nation	563,007.87	8
Tall Cree First Nation	561,306.17	11
Tsuu T'ina Nation	30,105,186.41	29
Whitefish (Goodfish) First Nation	797,974.14	6
Whitefish Lake First Nation	743,988.78	4
Woodland Cree First Nation	540,732.77	1
Total	**$118,998,872.68**	**290**

**All FNDF grant expenditures are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.*

Community Outreach

FNDF Liaison Officers meet regularly with First Nations to provide information, advice and assistance in planning for the use of the FNDF grant program in a way that works best for First Nations communities. The Liaison Officers are available to assist First Nations with:

- Using FNDF within the terms of the Grant Agreement
- Identifying community priorities
- Completing funding applications
- Reporting, auditing and other requirements of the First Nation
- Community planning/development

Since 2009, Aboriginal Relations has hosted an annual community development workshop to provide further information on the technical, administrative and delivery aspects of FNDF, as well as how FNDF can support broader community goals. The objective of the workshop is to support capacity development for First Nations involved with the FNDF. It also presents a unique opportunity for First Nations and other stakeholders involved with FNDF to network, build relationships and share best practices.

The 2012/2013 community development workshop was held at the River Cree Resort and Casino in Edmonton, with 67 people attending from 24 First Nations, as well as representatives from Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission and Alberta Human Services. The workshop yielded positive results, as evaluations and post workshop discussions show that the objectives of networking and capacity building were met.

Participant quotes when asked what the most valuable part of the workshop was:

"Meeting people from different bands and listening to their ideas and successes."

"The workshop was very interesting and educative. The concept of what FNDF is all about became clearer."

Tsuu T'ina Nation's Youth Riding and Rodeo Program

There are currently 30 horses being utilized in the program.

Marvin Dodginghorse, Youth Riding and Rodeo Program Director, acknowledges that the program is all about "Developing the kids and developing our own horses."

The Youth Riding and Rodeo Program is one of Tsuu T'ina Nation's more impressive initiatives, offering a means by which youth can engage in, and grow through, the discipline of horsemanship. In 2012/2013, FNDF contributed a total of $747,655 to cover various operational costs of the program as well as renovations and repairs to the Harry Dodginghorse Agriplex.

The program offers a fun and unique environment in which Tsuu T'ina Nation's youth can discover the merits of good horsemanship. Dealing with horses can often be a daunting task for the inexperienced, and program staff promotes a safe and structured environment. Good horsemanship is the result of a good relationship between the rider and the horse, and truly reflects a healthy physical and spiritual well-being of both. The program keeps youth involved in fun, local physical activity while offering an unparalleled stage for character development and maturation that inevitably permeates their everyday life.

Since its inception eight years ago, the program has experienced an abundance of success, captivating the interest and commitment of numerous youth within the community. In 2012 alone, twelve students from the experienced/elite levels of riding qualified for the 2013 Indian National Finals Rodeo hosted in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The program runs five days a week and caters to all levels of riding experience. Approximately twenty youth participate in the beginner's course, most of whom are between the ages of seven to twenty years old. Marvin Dodginghorse, the program's Director, envisions the program relocating to a larger facility that would include both an indoor and outdoor arena, would be able to accommodate the high demand of youth interest, and would host more livestock.

Ermineskin Tribe: Cree Language Department

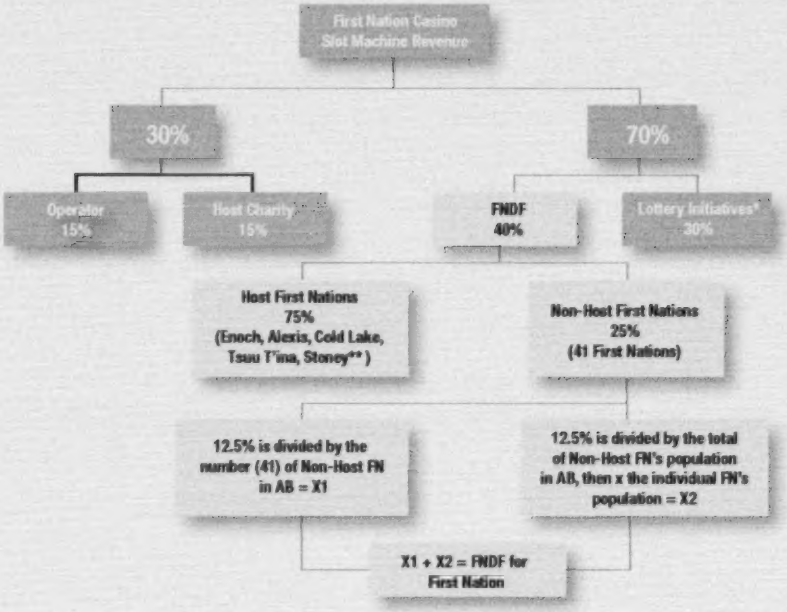
Mission Statement: "We are a Cree Culture and Cree language learning Center which revitalizes the Cree language values and the way of life for all."

In 2012/2013, FNDF provided $317,058 to Ermineskin Tribe's Cree Language Department, which supports and revitalizes the Cree language and cultural values in the community. The Cree Language Department offers a variety of courses to over 150 students, including beginner/intermediate/advanced Cree, Syllabics, Adult Literacy and Cree Arts Development. The program instructors are effective in delivering culturally based education by aptly blending the values of story, respect, and humor, thereby creating an engaging environment in which students can enjoy learning their traditional language.

Ermineskin Tribe is one of four Nations—along with Samson Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe and Montana First Nation—that identify as the Maskwacîs Cree people. The Maskwacîs Cree profess that their traditional language embodies the essence of their culture, identity, traditional values and beliefs. The Cree Language Department was established in 2008 as part of a strategic plan that would remedy the existing dissolution between many Maskwacîs Cree people and their language. As relayed in their community vision statement, the ultimate goal is to create "a healthy fluent Cree speaking community who pass on the knowledge, principles and values of a strong identity."

Staff members Audrey Morin, Rose Makinaw and Robert Smallboy. Staff have hosted summer language camps for youth for the past four years.

Allocation Formula for Grant Funding


First Nation Casino Slot Machine Revenue
30%
70%
Operator 15%
Host Charity* 15%
FNDF 40%
Lottery Initiatives* 30%
Host First Nations 75% (Enoch, Alexis, Cold Lake, Tsuu T'ina, Stoney**)
Non-Host First Nations 25% (41 First Nations)
12.5% is divided by the number (41) of Non-Host FN in AB = X1
12.5% is divided by the total of Non-Host FN's population in AB, then x the individual FN's population = X2
X1 + X2 = FNDF for First Nation

* *Alberta Lottery Fund supports a variety of Alberta programs and services in communities throughout Alberta. These include the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Community Initiatives Program.*

** *The three Stoney tribes – Chiniki, Bearspaw and Wesley – are considered one Host First Nation.*

How It Works: FNDF Grant Agreement

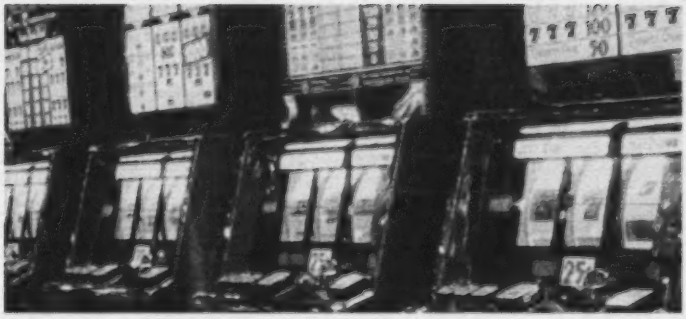
How revenue is shared – funding formulas

There are currently 46 First Nations participating in the FNDF grant program. To receive funding, First Nations sign the FNDF Grant Agreement. The agreement includes formulas for sharing the FNDF funding among all Alberta First Nations and covering administration costs of the program.

- The FNDF receives 40 per cent of the net revenue from government-owned slot machines in First Nation casinos in Alberta.
- Of this 40 per cent, 75 per cent is available to the five host First Nations who have casinos, and 25 percent is shared among the other First Nations in the province.
- Of the 25 per cent going to First Nations that do not have casinos, half is divided equally among 41 First Nations; and the other half is divided according to First Nation population figures.

Quarterly payments

The Alberta government does not have the FNDF funds at the start of the fiscal year. The funds become available as government receives them from the casinos. Once the slot machine revenues have been verified by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, funds are allocated to the FNDF. Payments are made soon after the conclusion of each quarter, in July, October, January, April. Quarterly payments are consistent with the FNDF Grant Agreement and minimize administrative costs.



How to Apply for FNDF Grants

Recognized Alberta First Nation Band Councils are eligible to apply to the FNDF Grant Program. The criteria for taking part in the fund were determined in consultation with First Nations in the province.

Grant applications must include:

1. Completed and signed application
2. Detailed project description
3. Detailed project funding/budget information
4. Band Council Resolution

To get a copy of the application and FNDF Grant Agreement, or for further assistance, contact:

Aboriginal Relations
20th Floor Commerce Place
10155 – 102 St.
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4G8
Phone: 780-427-8407
Fax: 780-427-4019

To call toll-free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000.

The FNDF Grant Program application form is also available online:

- Visit www.aboriginal.alberta.ca
- Click on First Nations Relations
- Click on First Nations Development Fund Grant Program

For additional copies of the *Annual Results*, please contact:

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10155-102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4G8

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